

# Big Cypress National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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## Comment Period for Oil and Gas Environmental Assessment Extended

Superintendent John Donahue announced today the second extension of the comment period for an environmental assessment evaluating the potential effects to Big Cypress National Preserve of an oil and gas activity proposed by the Collier Resources Company. The environmental assessment can be made available by contacting the Preserve headquarters or through local library branches. It is also available on the Preserve's website at [www.nps.gov/bicy](http://www.nps.gov/bicy)

Superintendent Donahue said, "This environmental assessment examines a proposal to exercise privately-owned oil and gas rights by conducting seismic exploration and drilling for oil within the Preserve boundary. Development of these oil and gas rights is authorized by the 1974 legislation establishing the Preserve and is currently being managed under a Minerals Management Plan developed for the Preserve in 1992."

"Due to the extensive and continued interest in this environmental assessment, the public comment period will be extended another thirty days," said Donahue. "We want to ensure that every citizen has an opportunity to share their views with us on this matter."

The current comment period ends March 27, 2002. This extension of the comment period will close April 26. Comments should be directed to Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, HCR 61, Box 110, Ochopee, Florida 34141.

Questions regarding the environmental assessment can be directed to the Preserve's main phone number at 941-695-2000.

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